

“Nature Based Businesses, Restoration, and the Economy”

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The Nature Conservancy will share their strategies for land and water conservation, ecological restoration, and nature-based businesses on economic development. The national non-profit organization has directed mitigation and other funding towards the reclamation of abandoned mined lands in southwestern Virginia to help to restore forests and water quality. TNC is also partnering with local coalfield communities to connect its conservation work with economic revitalization strategies that involve outdoor recreation and tourism. In partnership with private developers, state organizations, local leaders, and partner organizations TNC seeks to convene stakeholders for shared analysis and shared goals on reclaimed and pre-law lands. Their research and partnerships demonstrate that the possibilities are unique to each landscape, but with some creativity, collaboration, and planning, restoration and reclamation activities can be expanded to create even more economic and community benefit.

“How Impact Investments Can Address the AML Problem”

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There is a growing need to protect ecosystems and the resources that they provide. At the same time, there is insufficient public and philanthropic funding for conservation. Recognizing the need to close this funding gap, The Nature Conservancy created NatureVest, its conservation investing unit focused on developing conservation investment opportunities for private capital. As impact investing is on the rise, Kuni Chen will explain how impact investing deals can be created in coordination with AML sites and reclamation efforts nationwide. Some of Kuni's work includes mine methane carbon offsets, solar on abandoned mine lands, and acid mine drainage restoration.